

**Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soils Committee: Meeting Minutes
Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, Rock Hall, Maryland
January 12 & 13, 1999**

Day I

10:00am Ralph Spagnolo, EPA: Introductions, Review of last meeting, Updates available for 'Hydric Soils Book', Web Page, Newsletter Discussion, Sign-In.

10:30am Jeff Thompson, MDE: Field Indicators CD-ROM will be available shortly on CD. Copies available on Zip-Disk so you can add your own pictures and user notes to tailor to your needs. Send Jeff a Zip and he will make you a copy.

11:00am Ralph Spagnolo, EPA: Suggestions solicited for CD-ROM, Web-page, Hydric Soils Book distribution, updates and usage.

11:15am Marty Rabenhorst, University of Maryland: 'Red/Yellow Parent Material', Photos, Problematic Examples (Calvin, FC2-5, Penn, MC3-5), Master Color Index (MCI)=Hue (HI) + 4x Chroma (CI), MCI useful to determine if soil is problematic in Mid-Atlantic Region, some soils are resistant to the development of redox features.

12:00noon Bruce Vasilas, University of Delaware: Ectomycorrhizal Mantles (ECM) as Indicators, use of fungi as an indicator of seasonally high water table, symbiotic relation between plant roots and fungi. Theory: ECM will not form in saturated soils, so if ECM is present the soil is no longer hydric but may be historically hydric. ECM only grows on live roots, vertical distribution of ECM could indicate water table, develop protocol for field testing this potential indicator of hydrology

12:45pm Lunch Break

2:00pm Marty Rabenhorst, University of Maryland: Field study 'Red/Yellow Soils'

3:15pm Bruce Vasilas, University of Delaware: Field study 'ECM'

Day II

9:00am Russ Pringle, NRCS: Wetland Science Institute, Technical Standards-Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the US., Proposed technical guidance to identify hydric soils based on quantitative data, calendar of soils available from Gary Muttie, Lincoln, NE
Classes Offered: April 19(Charlston), June 7(Nevada), June 14(Oregon), July 12(??)

9:45am Lenore Vasilas, NRCS: National Technical Committee Meeting Notes:

- I. Changing national soil survey criteria to fit NASUS wording, to match the database criteria used to match soil to NCRS list.
- II. Technical Standards:
 - A. Add indicator

B. Delete indicator

C. Change indicator

III. MLRA, Mucky Modified, Talk to Wade Hurt-Chairman TF-1, red parent material, Customize user notes

IV. Creation of local/regional committees: NE, SE, W, Mid-W, to include: 5 NRCS, 5 Univ., FWS, EPA, State; to meet twice a year
F3 has changed to 2" thickness requirement.

10:30am Open Discussion:

Re: *Hydric Soils Book* F1 changed to 2 in. thickness requirement. Where do we go with F1. What about TF2? Will remain a testing indicator. Address problems with indicators in user notes. Do we need to tell people what books are and how to use them? Should we offer more training? Book is not official, not referenced in 87 manual, can only be used as support. EPA and FWS support use of book and should draft a letter to other agencies ie. NJDEP supporting the use of the book with-out officially adopting the book. NRCS soil must meet an indicator in order to be called hydric. Draft letter and e-mail to committee members for input. The 87 manual is very nebulous, many soils can be made to fit criteria. There is a problem defining hydric soils because of two different manuals and the filed indicators book which is only partially accepted. We need to support one standard. Horizon or layer, the terminology needs to jive. The book needs to be fixed by support with real scientific data and honing to meet real world apps. Marty things the book is far superior to the 87 manual which is nebulous. The national report has been sent to congress for the new manual, but has been buried and ignored.

11:00am Mary Anne Theising, EPA: Grants. 'The Truth Is Out There!'

There are three basic types of grants, each have different deadlines and application purposes.

I. State wetlands grants. Partnering, money can be used to reach mutual goals. PPA- Performance Partnership Agreements.

II. RARE-Regional Assistance R.E.. Prefer grants that produce deliverables which can be used hence to protect wetlands/watersheds.

III. ORD piggyback.

11:45am Open Discussion:

This committee should develop grant proposals for projects that are ready to submit as money comes available. ie. *Red/Yellow Parent Material* and *Reference Sites* for data collection to support indicator book.

Web Page: Add counter to site. Get this site linked by other sites. Add NCRS link.

What are we going to emphasize at our next meeting?

Tentatively scheduled for June 29 & 30, 1999 @ Holiday Inn, Atlantic City, NJ.